



On behalf of Airbus and its 45,000 employees around the world, I am delighted to continue our rewarding cooperation with the National Gallery of Art by supporting the exhibition *Édouard Vuillard*.

There is much for us all to admire in the work of Édouard Vuillard. Permanently seeking innovation and excellence in his artistic exploration, from the choice of themes and traits to the adoption of new media, Vuillard was a thoroughly modern and creative artist. His tireless endeavor resulted in spontaneous, fresh, and intensely human works, belying the effort behind them.

The timing of this exhibition fittingly coincides with the centennial year of the birth of our industry. While Vuillard was helping establish the foundation of the artistic revolution of the twentieth century, the Wright brothers and their remarkable first flight at Kitty Hawk set in motion a new century of progress in aviation.

The spirit of innovation, taste for excellence, and boundless creativity—shared across the Atlantic by these contemporaries of one century ago—continue to inspire us at Airbus. In designing and manufacturing our aircraft, we are guided by the consistent aspiration to provide our customers and their passengers with safety, comfort, and technological advancement. In so doing, our ambition is to lead the way into the next century of flight.

As we share such guiding principles, it is an honor to participate in this, the largest and most comprehensive exhibition of the works of Vuillard ever to be held in the United States—the home country of many of our most valuable customers, partners, and friends.

I hope this exhibition offers all its viewers a deeper insight into the values of beauty and creativity that transcend cultures and borders. Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noël Forgeard".

Noël Forgeard  
President and Chief Executive Officer